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**THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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RULES, RESOLUTIONS & MEMORIALS

April 1, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The Arkansas Black Legislative Caucus is an organization of this state's elected African-American leaders in the General Assembly. The men and women in our caucus represent citizens in urban, suburban and rural communities. Our state has tremendous geographic diversity. The capitol city, Little Rock, has a population of nearly 200,000, while the Little Rock Metro Area population is more than 650,000. Yet our state also has a significant rural population, a rate higher than the U.S. national average.

We write to you with a strong conviction that the single most important result of the FCC's National Broadband Plan must be that it encourages the rapid roll-out of high-speed Internet access. President Obama has spoken about the need for universal, affordable high-speed access and we applaud your commitment to achieving this objective. Our citizens need broadband – now. As the Obama Administration itself has correctly stated, the benefits from the spread of high-speed service include jobs, education and economic growth. Additionally, we would like to express strong concern about efforts to encourage new rules over the Internet. Policies that try to push new regulations onto emerging Internet technology will inevitably delay the day when all Arkansans can have the benefits of high-speed service. This would be a serious tragedy for many Arkansas residents, especially those who have had to endure so much difficulty during this brutal economic downturn.

In conclusion, we salute the FCC's efforts to bring affordable high-speed service to all Americans. Your work is among the most vital of the Obama Administration. That is also why we encourage all Commissioners to focus their attention on the most important issue involving high-speed service: closing the Digital Divide so that people in all communities can enjoy the benefits of high-speed service. On behalf of the Arkansas Black Legislative Caucus, we appreciate your willingness to consider our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracy Steele".

Tracy Steele
Vice - Chairman - Arkansas Legislative Black Caucus